

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SB 399 – HB 1027

April 9, 2013

**SUMMARY OF ORIGINAL BILL:** Establishes quantifiable brightness criteria for changeable message signs operated pursuant to a permit issued by either the Department of Transportation (TDOT) or by a local government.

CORRECTED FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

**SUMMARY OF AMENDMENT (006172):** Deletes all language after the enacting clause. Requires all changeable message signs installed on or after July 1, 2014, to come equipped with a light sensing device that automatically adjusts the brightness in direct correlation with ambient light conditions. Establishes quantifiable brightness criteria for changeable message signs operated pursuant to a permit issued by the Department of Transportation (TDOT).

**FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENT:**

**Unchanged from the original fiscal note.**

Assumptions for the bill as amended:

- One item of equipment to measure brightness of light emitted from a changeable message sign will be required for four TDOT regions at a cost of \$1,000 per item. The total one-time cost for such equipment is estimated to be \$4,000 (4 regions x 1 item per region x \$1,000 per item).
- According to TDOT, the Department has intended to establish a measurable standard through rulemaking and would have acquired this equipment in the absence of this bill. As a result, any cost incurred will be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or a reduced reversion.
- According to TDOT, there are currently approximately 128 changeable message signs statewide. Approximately 10 to 20 additional signs are erected each year.

SB 399 – HB 1027

- It is estimated that initial and ongoing measurements of brightness of light emitted from such signs can be accomplished within existing resources of TDOT's regional staff without an increased appropriation or a reduced reversion.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Lucian" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

/bos